CLAIMS

Subart cont

1. A photographing operation control device for an electronic still camera, comprising:

a buffer memory in which an image data obtained through a photographing optical system is temporarily stored; and

a blank photographing operation performing processor that performs a photographing operation in a blank photographing mode in which said image data is stored only in said buffer memory.

2. A device according to claim 1, further comprising a photographing mode selecting processor that sets said blank photographing mode.

3. A device according to claim 2, wherein said photographing mode selecting processor comprises a photographing mode set switch, by which said blank photographing mode is set, and which is provided in a camera body of said electronic still camera.

4. A device according to claim 1, further comprising a recording medium sensing processor that senses whether a recording medium is mounted, said blank photographing operation performing processor performing a photographing operation in said blank photographing mode when said recording medium sensing processor senses that said recording medium is not mounted.

5. A device according to claim 1, further comprising a blank

recording area sensing processor that senses whether a blank recording area exists in a recording medium, said blank photographing operation performing processor performing said photographing operation in said blank photographing mode when said blank recording area sensing processor senses that said recording medium has no blank recording area.

6. A device according to claim 1, further comprising a recording medium sensing processor that senses whether a recording medium is mounted, a blank recording area sensing processor that senses whether a blank recording area exists in said recording medium, a normal photographing operation performing processor that performs a photographing operation in a normal photographing mode in which, after storing said image data in said buffer memory, said image data is read from said buffer memory and recorded in said recording medium, and a photographing mode selecting processor that selects one of said blank photographing mode and said normal photographing mode, said photographing mode selecting processor being able to select said blank photographing mode when said recording medium sensing processor and said blank recording area sensing processor sense that a recording medium having a blank recording area is installed in said device.

7. A device according to claim 1, further comprising an image data transfer processor that transfers said image data stored in said buffer to a recording medium.

8. A device according to claim 7, further comprising a normal photographing operation performing processor that performs a photographing operation in a normal photographing mode in which, after storing said image data in said buffer memory, reads said image data from said buffer memory, and records said image data in said recording medium, said image data transfer processor transfers said image data to said recording medium when said normal photographing mode is set.

9. A device according to claim 1, further comprising a mode informing processor that informs that said blank photographing mode is set.

10. A device according to claim 1, further comprising a recording medium sensing processor that senses whether a recording medium is mounted and a non-mounting condition informing processor that informs that said recording medium is not mounted.

11. A device according to claim 1, further comprising a blank recording area sensing processor that senses whether a blank recording area exists in a recording medium and a non-existing condition informing processor that informs that said recording medium has no blank recording area.